

As several states are under lockdown again ~~the~~ urgent response is needed from centre to overcome distress in rural areas. Discuss (200 words)

The lockdown imposed to mitigate the second wave of pandemic has pushed the rural population into social, economical and health distress. Urgent response is needed from the government to overcome distress.

Social and Economical distress

The Hunger watch report

held at least 70% of rural respondents borrowed money for food and around 45% skipped a meal

in October 2020. The Centre for Monitoring

Indian Economy - think tank constituted unemployment rate in rural around 26%.

To mitigate this Government

~~has~~ announced 5kg free food grain for month may and June under National Food Security

Act. Around ₹73,000 Crore were allotted to

MGNREGA Scheme to meet the economic distress

Government could reintroduce the PM Gaurib Kalyan Package to effectively neutralise the distress. Further extra fund can be allotted to MGNREGA Scheme to meet up ground demand

Health distress

Rural population due to lack of awareness highly affected by pandemic.

Government through Awareness campaigns at Panchayati level could make people in rural aware of mitigation measures like vaccination drive, oxygen buses, Cowin registration portal etc.

Further through multifrontal approach government needs to take measures for children like making available education free, for informal workers like providing them jobs and making use of them for awareness measures.

Government could use this pandemic time to upgrade and update details about informal workers who dominate the rural area which will help in effective implementation of Industrial Codes and Acts introduced in 2020, ~~codified~~ and ensure speedy recovery of economy of rural